



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: A congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) is an opening in the diaphragm that allows the abdominal organs to push into the chest cavity. This devastating birth defect is often life-threatening as it limits the growth of the lungs; and
- WHEREAS: CDH occurs in one of every 2,500 pregnancies in the United States and accounts for 8 percent of all major congenital anomalies. Only 50 percent of the more than 500,000 babies born with CDH since 2000 have survived; and
- WHEREAS: Despite these high statistics, very few people are familiar with the condition. CDH occurs as often as spina bifida and cystic fibrosis, yet has limited public awareness; and
- WHEREAS: With approximately 1,600 babies born with CDH in the U.S. each year, there is a vital need for increased public awareness of the birth defect. Many dedicated individuals and organizations are working to promote this awareness and to encourage research efforts to prevent or successfully treat all those diagnosed with the defect; and
- WHEREAS: Those suffering from CDH often endure multiple surgeries and possible medical complications beyond their initial diagnosis, including heart and pulmonary defects, gastric and intestinal problems, developmental delays, and may require respiratory and medicinal support; and
- WHEREAS: Proactive diagnosis and appropriate management of fetuses with CDH minimize the incidences of emergency situations, dramatically improving survival rates; and
- WHEREAS: Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month provides an opportunity for families affected by an associated birth defect to celebrate life, remember loved ones lost, honor dedicated health professionals, and share information with the public; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2018 as CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and encourage our citizens to learn more about congenital diaphragmatic hernias and provide support to affected individuals.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF